



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SPANISH-LANGUAGE WEST NILE VIRUS VIDEO NOW IN LIBRARIES

County Residents Encouraged to "Fight the Bite"

In an effort to inform and empower Spanish-speaking residents to take action and protect themselves from West Nile virus (WNV), the County has distributed its Spanish version of the West Nile virus educational video to all local libraries throughout the county.

"We need to educate all County residents to eliminate standing water around their homes," said Gary Erbeck, director of the County's Department of Environmental Health. "Mosquitoes can breed in very little water left by rain, sprinklers, or even dripping faucets. Everyone needs to do their part to ensure that the mosquito population stays in check this season."

The informative 20-minute video covers basic West Nile virus information, including how to eliminate mosquito-breeding sites, how residents can protect themselves from mosquitoes, and the signs and symptoms of West Nile virus.

The video is also available on the www.SDFightTheBite.com Web site, as are links to other foreign language WNV Web sites, including Cambodian, Chinese, French, Hmong, Lao, Portuguese, Russian, Tagalog and Vietnamese.

Although WNV has not been detected in the County so far this year, past testing has shown the virus is in the county. Surrounding counties have already identified positive dead birds, mosquitoes and chickens this year.

People can reduce the risk of acquiring WNV by eliminating breeding sources and staying inside when mosquitoes are most active. If you must be outside, wear DEET, long sleeves and pants, especially at dusk and dawn.

For more information on WNV, to report dead birds or mosquito-breeding areas, or find out where to pick up free mosquito-eating fish, call 1-888-551-INFO (4636) or visit

www.SDFightTheBite.com.

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